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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /077 W
----------110229Z 107185 /66
R 101450Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE 5560
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS MAPUTO 0238

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH
SUBJECT: PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER ROBERT MUGABE COMMENTS ON
RHODESIAN LAND REFORM LEGISLATION

1. NOTICIAS MARCH 10 CARRIED EXCERPTS OF REMARKS MADE BY PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER ROBERT MUGABE ON MARCH 9 ZIPA BROADCASTS BEAMED TO RHODESIA. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MUGABE SAID THAT THE RECENTLY PASSED RHODESIA LAND REFORM LEGISLATION "CONTAINED NOTHING NEW." HE SAID THAT THE "PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE ARE ASKING NOT ONLY THAT THEIR LAND BE RETURNED TO THEM," BUT ALSO FOR THE "RECOGNITION OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION." UNTIL THIS IS ACHIEVED, MUGABE ADVOCATED THE CONTINUATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE.

2. MUGABE ALSO DENIED THAT ZIPA FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT DEATH IN RHODESIA OF SPANISH PRIEST RUBIO DIAZ. MUGABE CLAIMED THAT ZIPA CADRE WERE WELL DISCIPLINED AND OBSERVED STRICT GUIDELINES WHILE OPERATING IN RHODESIA. MUGABE ALLEGED
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THAT THE PRIEST'S DEATH, LIKE THAT OF MANY OTHER CIVILIANS, HAD BEEN PERPETRATED BY RHODESIAN SOLDIERS OR MERCENARIES IN THE HIRE OF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. SAME ARTICLE REPORTED THAT A SPOKESMAN AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LUSAKA "CONFIRMED" THAT THERE ARE AMERICAN MERCENARIES WORKING IN RHODESIA, BUT CLAIMED THAT LARGE FIGURES (OVER 400) BEING

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BANDIED ABOUT IN PRESS WERE "EXAGGERATED." OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT
BECAUSE OF THE STRICT LAWS AGAINST THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES
IN THE U.S., MOST OF THE AMERICAN MERCENARIES WERE PROBABLY RE-
CRUITED OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

4. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT RHODESIA'S FRAGILE ECONOMY HAD SUFFERED
ANOTHER BLOW THIS WEEK WHEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INCREASED ITS
TARIFFS ON RAILWAY AND PORT FACILITIES USED BY THE RHODESIANS.
THE ARTICLE SAID RAILWAY TARIFFS HAD BEEN RAISED TWENTY-THREE
PERCENT AND PORT TARIFFS BY AROUND FIVE PERCENT.
DE PREE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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